

Nisei here in the United States. It continued to play an important role in defining and developing a cultural identity throughout the 1930s.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt's Executive Order initiating the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans, the tradition of baseball resonated within these communities. Daily baseball games not only served as a distraction from the monotony of the internment camps, but it also provided them with a sense of normalcy and community. Today we celebrate the historical impact Nisei baseball has had not only on the Japanese American community in the United States, but across our Nation as a whole. It provided a sense of community during one of the darkest periods of our Nation's history.

In recent years Japanese ballplayers have helped transform the game of baseball at the highest levels. Japanese players competing at the major league level, such as Ichiro Suzuki, Hideki Matsui and Hideo Nomo, have been instrumental in attracting new fans to the sport. The success of these major leaguers and the strides made by past Nisei and Issei ballplayers have led to a rich and rooted history that can be celebrated for generations to come.

I am honored to pay tribute to a century of Japanese American baseball and the enduring effect it has had on the Japanese American community. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commemorating the past and present Japanese American baseball pioneers and their lasting legacy on our country.

HONORING SANDRA M. BODIN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Sandra M. Bodin, who just completed her services as President of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, ANNA, for her dedication and contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients across the country.

ANNA is one of the largest and most prestigious nursing associations in America. The organization is the recognized leader in nephrology nursing practice, education, research, and advocacy. ANNA's members are registered nurses and health care professionals at all levels of practice. They care for patients of all ages who are experiencing, or are at risk for, kidney disease. The organization's mission is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney or other disease processes requiring replacement therapies through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.

As an active member of ANNA, Sandra has served as President, Vice President, and as a member of the Board of Directors. Also, she received the Ron Brady Memorial Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership from ANNA in 2002.

As ANNA's president Sandra has inspired nephrology nurses to reach the highest levels of practice and patient care. She is a visionary leader who has implemented a broad range of

initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments.

Professionally, Sandra graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Nursing from the College of Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. She became a Registered Nurse in 1977 and a Certified Nephrology Nurse in 1992. Sandra currently is the lead Clinical Informatics Analyst and Application Coordinator at the SMDC Health System in Duluth, Minnesota. Sandra has also worked at the Miller-Dawn Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital, both in Duluth.

I honor her efforts to promote the care of those suffering from kidney disease. I recognize her achievements as a nurse, patient advocate, and healthcare leader. I commend Sandra on her service to the American Nephrology Nurses' Association and our country.

Please join me in commending Sandra M. Bodin for her years of vision, leadership, and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the brave men and women of the Missouri National Guard, for their commitment to providing flood relief.

The Missouri National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been mobilized by Missouri government leaders to assist in the Missouri emergency flood response. The members have been mobilized in the communities of Clarksville, Hannibal, Canton, West Quincy, LaGrange, Winfield, Alexandria, St. Charles City, and St. Charles County. Those supporting the flood response are assisting in missions that include sandbagging operations, levee monitoring, and manning traffic control points. Since the mobilization of forces, more than 1,000 Guard members have responded to the call to duty. With force rotations, there are currently around 700 members on active duty.

Personnel have come from across the state to aid Missouri towns during this emergency. These units include the 7th Civil Support Team from Fort Leonard Wood; the 135th Military History Detachment from Jefferson City; the 835th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion from Jefferson City; 735th Quartermaster Company with detachments in DeSoto, Jefferson City, Rolla, Cape Girardeau and Jefferson Barracks; the 1138th Transportation Company from Jefferson Barracks; the 1035th Maintenance Company from Jefferson Barracks; 3175th Chemical Company from St. Peters; the 1438th Engineer Company from Macon and Kirksville; the 220th Engineer Company from Festus; the 880th Haul Team from Perryville; the 1137th Military Police Company from Kennett, Jackson and Doniphan; the 1138th Military Police Company from West Plains and Springfield; the 1175th Military Police Company from St. Clair and St. Louis; 1140th Engineer Battalion from Cape Girardeau; the 205th Military Police Battalion from Poplar Bluff; the 203rd Engineer Battalion from Joplin; the 131st Fighter Wing from St.

Louis; the 1138th Engineer Company (Sapper) in Farmington; and the 70th Troop Command from Jefferson Barracks.

I know the Members of the House will join me in recognizing the outstanding dedication of the Missouri National Guard, and in wishing them luck throughout this emergency operation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD TECHNICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will restore fairness for our military technicians, who work every day in Connecticut and across the Nation to support our National Guard.

If the National Guard serves as the backbone of our military, then our military technicians serve as the backbone of our National Guard. They play a critical role in ensuring that our National Guard is ready to respond and deploy in support of military operations abroad by supporting the training, equipment repair and restoration, logistics and other critical functions.

Military technicians are known as "dual-status" employees, through which they must retain membership in the Air or Army National Guard in their State in order to maintain full-time employment as a technician. Dual-status military technicians are subject to the restrictions of the Technician Act of 1969, 32 USC 709, and other provisions of the law under which they are specifically prohibited from receiving certain benefits and rights available to them as members of the National Guard, such as reenlistment bonuses and student loan repayment assistance. In addition, if a member of the National Guard becomes a technician within 6 months of receiving an enlistment or reenlistment bonus, the Department of Defense can, and often does, require them to pay back those bonuses.

The law also fails to fairly compensate technicians for the increased overtime hours that technicians must work to fulfill their mission by providing technicians compensatory time, rather than monetary compensation, in return for overtime work. Many technicians cannot use the compensatory time without impacting time-sensitive military work schedules and, with the military's current "use it or lose it" policy under which such time is lost if unused within 21 pay cycles, many technicians face the prospect of losing the time off they have earned.

Last summer, I had the chance to visit the 1109th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot, AVCRAD, in Groton and see first hand the work they were doing to support of our National Guard. There, nearly 300 military technicians provide maintenance and logistics for aircraft and equipment for 14 States across the northeast and supports Connecticut's fleet of Black Hawk helicopters. During my visit, the leadership of the unit described how busy the facility has been over the past several years. They've literally been burning the midnight oil in trying to keep up with the demand of keeping equipment repaired and ready to deploy. It's an incredible operation, and one that is